

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

BYRON L PETERS,

Plaintiff,

v.

WILLIAM HANES MONROE JR, KIP
ANDREW HARBISON, MARK
CHRISTIAN GRECO, THE LAW
OFFICE OF GLASSER AND
GLASSER PLC,

Defendants.

CASE NO. C20-1422 MJP

ORDER DENYING MOTIONS TO
APPOINT COUNSEL

This matter comes before the Court on Plaintiff's motions to appoint counsel. (Dkt. Nos. 8 and 13.) The Court DENIES Plaintiff's motion.

The Court has discretion to appoint counsel for indigent civil litigants pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1), but an appointment of counsel should only be granted under "exceptional circumstances." Agyeman v. Corrections Corp. of Am., 390 F.3d 1101, 1103 (9th Cir. 2004). "A finding of the exceptional circumstances of the plaintiff seeking assistance requires at least an evaluation of the likelihood of the plaintiff's success on the merits and an evaluation of the

1 plaintiff's ability to articulate his claims in light of the complexity of the legal issues involved.”
2 Id. (internal quotations omitted).

3 Plaintiff has not demonstrated the merits of his claims in his motions for appointment of
4 counsel, and the Court is unable to find sufficient merit on the face of his complaint to warrant
5 appointment. (See Dkt. Nos. 1, 8 and 13.) Plaintiff has not presented exceptional circumstances
6 that would justify the appointment of counsel at this time. Plaintiff's motions to appoint counsel
7 is DENIED.

8 The Court nevertheless recognizes the significant costs in retaining an attorney. While the
9 Court declines to appoint pro bono counsel in this civil action, the Court directs Plaintiff to the
10 Federal Bar Association's Federal Civil Rights Legal Clinic. Volunteer attorneys at the Legal
11 Clinic may refer Plaintiff to other community resources. To schedule an appointment, Plaintiff
12 should call (206) 819-5084. The King County Bar Association also operates neighborhood legal
13 clinics that may be able to assist Plaintiff. To schedule an appointment, Plaintiff should call
14 (206) 267-7070.

15 The clerk is ordered to provide copies of this order to all parties and counsel.

16 Dated November 25, 2020.

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18 Marsha J. Pechman
19 United States District Judge
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